



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

The Early Childhood Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at The Allan Center in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance: Cathy Doggett, Larry Elsner, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, Roscoe Overton, Rhonda Paver, Jacquie Porter, Monica Sanchez, and Brook Son. Staff in Attendance: Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff – Cindy Gamez and Estella Kirscht.

Interim Chair Huston called the Board Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Members of the audience introduced themselves to the Council members.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The August 12, 2015, regular meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Holder's motion, Council Member Porter seconded on a 9-0-0 vote. The June 16, 2015 Special Called meeting Minutes were approved on Council Member Holder's motion, Council Member Porter seconded on a 9-0-0 vote.
5. **Presentations –** Alison Bentley gave a presentation on the School Readiness Action Plan overview and updated Council on the 2015-2018 updated strategies and goals.
6. **STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS –**
 - **Officer Elections –**
 - Council Member Paver reported that the nominating workgroup had three nominations (Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, and Monica Sanchez) for Chair of the Early Childhood Council. Aletha Huston declined the nomination. Kyle Holder won a majority vote on a 7-2-0 vote.
 - Council Member Paver also reported that the nominating workgroup had two nominations for Vice Chair (Cathy Doggett and Jacquie Porter). Jacquie Porter declined the nomination. A motion to nominate Monica Sanchez for Vice Chair was made from the floor by Council Member Huston. A majority vote was not reached with 3 votes for Council Member Doggett and 5 votes for Council Member Sanchez and 1 member abstaining. Vice Chair nomination was tabled to next month's agenda.
 - **TRS Waiver –** HHSD staff reported that the Texas Workforce Commission's re-design of the Texas Rising Star (TRS) criteria/assessment tool negatively impacted several Travis County 4 Star level quality rated providers by bringing them down a star level. HHSD made a programmatic decision to allow for a waiver to make star level (2, 3 and 4Star) eligible for the City/County funded Local Match program through 9/30/16. The ECC was asked to support the waiver via a recommendation. Discussion took place and the ECC recommended that the issue go to the Provider Work Group to

learn more about the TRS re-design and to come back with a recommendation for a vote. Council Members Paver, Porter, and Overton volunteered to be on the Provider Work Group.

- Future presentations to the ECC were discussed: Workforce Solutions/TRS Program, City of San Antonio Pre-K, E3 Alliance report on early childhood impact on the community, and Police Chief APD Fight Crime, Invest in Kids were some suggestions
- Cindy Gamez handed out the FY2016 Early Childhood HHSD funding spreadsheet showing funding levels from 2009-2016.
- Cindy Gamez handed out the proposed HHSD Re-Organizational Chart. Discussion took place regarding a concern that Early Childhood function, specifically the Early Childhood Council, be elevated to the Deputy Director's Division under Social Services Policy. The Policy Work Group was given the task to write a letter to HHSD Director Shannon Jones from the Early Childhood Council Chair, Kyle Holder. Council Members Sanchez, Doggett, Elsner, Son, Holder and Huston volunteered to be on the Policy Work Group.

7. SUCCESS BY 6 UPDATE – None (earlier presentation)

8. RELATED GROUPS – No reports

ADJOURNMENT – Interim Chair Huston adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. without objection.